

Boston, Massachusetts, Feb. 4.
1851.

P.S. Pray read my note to
Mr. Estlin, if you have time & the
book with him for it. Will
you then post it to him?

Dear Mr. Webb,

How singularly 'the Abolitionists' are scattered about, up and down, upon the face of the earth! One or two in this city, one or two in that - here a solitary one, there a little company, but in no place many of them. This is often a subject of regret; as year after year rolls by, to think how great the distance is which separates ^{us} from the greater part of those with whom we sympathize so closely, and to think ~~how~~ too, how little probable it is that we shall see them ever again on earth, ^{this} is & must be painful & trying. Many inconveniences attend this comparative isolation. But, then, on the other hand how many & great advantages. Suppose we all lived together in one community; that might be very delightful, and doubtless would be so for a season. But where would be our influence on the world? The talent & ~~individual~~ influence and value of each individual would become merged, & mostly lost, in the general unity of thought & feeling around him. It is clearly a very wise Providence - is it not rather a striking & remarkable fact in that Providence - that the men & women, called to be antislavery saints, are thus placed in separate places, in different sections

widely-scattered,
of the great field, where ~~each one~~ ^{each one} ~~deceives~~, may find
full exercise for all the wit and nerve and
power of endurance in his composition, and so
that it shall turn out that no country, or
quarter shall be left without some testimony for
the truth and against the reigning lie. So we
find more cause to be satisfied, than dissatisfied,
with the way Providence has disposed affairs & us.
If we lose some individual enjoyment, it is to be
hoped that more good is accomplished. ~ But I
imagine the wonder you are in, that I should break
a long silence with this sort of prosing to you. I
sat down to this note, to say that we have today
been as busy as bees in preparing Liberty Bells,
Annual Reports, and Bazaar Gazettes, &c. &c. for
our transatlantic friends, and at 1/2 past 7 tonight
we drove the last nail into the box which contained
the whole (with some crowding), and directed it
to Richard D. Webb Esq, Great Brunswick St.
Dublin. Early tomorrow morning, I shall put
it on board the good ship "Plymouth Rock," bound
to Liverpool, and I expect that before evening
it will be rapidly moving in an easterly direction.
I think I shall not consign it to any one in

Liverpool, supposing that this may increase the
expense to you. The freight I shall pay here.

Perhaps you will write to some friend in Liverpool
respecting the Box, which I hope will reach you
in good season & safely. The different parcels
are directed according to the best of our knowledge;
but a good deal of work, I am well aware,
is left for you. You, being the person allotted
by Providence to stand in the capital of Ireland,
and ^{being} furnished with a ready disposition to help
the Antislavery cause along, and ^{with} a good executive
talent besides, will please to consider it
your "sphere" to fulfill this labour, as it
shall be our pleasant duty to thank you
heartily for the same. — Somebody has said
we are always living in a crisis. The crisis
seems imminent & startling now. The thick
of the moral fight is at hand. Satan's troops
are mustered, well-drilled, numerous and
led by consummate generals. Daniel Webster,
Moses Stuart, and Orville Dewey being conspicuous
among them for their cunning and villainy; the
last two being deserters from the service of One
they long professed to venerate, but whose Higher Law

never sat comfortably upon them, and which
 they now scorn and insult. The opposing
 force is not numerous, and makes a very
 insignificant appearance when drawn up in
 array with his troops, ~~who~~ is said to have led off the
 third part of Heaven (was it the 3^d?), - but we
 have the assurance that "God himself is with
 them for their Captain". Can there be a doubt
 as to the issue? - The meanness, the wickedness
 and the effrontery of our ministers - (ministers
 of any one but Jesus Christ are they) - is incredible.
 One would think they would, for very decency, leave it
 to the politicians to deny the "higher law", and at
 the farthest keep still, while laws were enacted &
 enforced which nullify & blaspheme the law &
 name of Jehovah. But they are foremost and
 noisiest in this infamous business. They ~~glorify~~
 their "constitutional duties"; as Daniel Webster
 said, "with alacrity." And how many they are
 leading to destruction it were idle to calculate! The
 nation seems smitten with the madness of self-conceit,
 vanity, self-prostration at the feet of the Demon of Slavery,
 and defiance of God. What a horrible result of com-
 promising with Sin! A terrible wo has come upon the land,
 and the end is not yet. Will not God spare & save us, for the
 sake of & by means of the few righteous men & women that remain?

This is all I can write for I am very tired & much I have a few lines to Mr. Estlin, which I will trouble you to forward to him.
 My best & very faithful regards to J. H. & family. R. Adams & your brother. Mark truly yours, Samuel May Jr.